

- (b) whether the vehicles purchased have been used for implementing the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) and (b) The Government of Uttar Pradesh is provided Central assistance in kind only under the National Anti Malaria Programme. It has been informed that Government of Uttar Pradesh purchased vehicles out of their own resources and provided them to the Officers who are also responsible for supervision and monitoring of the implementation of National Anti Malaria Programme, the Programme being horizontal.

Awareness for Cultivating Medicinal Plants

1468. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to undertake a project to promote awareness among farmers about medicinal plants and make them cultivate the plants on a large scale;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Government propose to set up Medicinal Plant Board, to safeguard the commercial interest of farmers producing these plants; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) and (b) A Scheme has been implemented by Indian Council of Agricultural Research for encouraging farmers for cultivation of medicinal plants. Agro-techniques are being developed for ex-situ cultivation. A number of varieties of medicinal and aromatic plants have been developed and made available to the farmers for cultivation.

- (c) Does not arise.
- (d) and (e) A proposal is being processed to set up a "Medicinal Plants Board" as an agency which would be responsible to coordinate

all matters relating to the development of Medicinal Plants.

Expenditure on Rural Health

1469. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita amount spent on medicines in rural areas of the country with the World Bank and WHO assistance;

(b) whether there is any new proposal to increase the said limit; and

(c) the total expenditure incurred on medicines in rural areas during the last five years and till-date, State-wise/year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) and (b) The Government does not maintain separate statistics on per capita amount spent on medicines in rural areas of the country with the World Bank and WHO assistance.

(c) The expenditure on medicines in rural areas is met out of funds provided to the States under Minimum Needs Programmes (MNP) Basic Minimum Services (BMS) Programme. State-wise list of MNP/ BMS funds allocated is annexed. [(See Appendix 180, Annexure No. 22)]

Apart from this the Central Government also provides assistance of Rs. 2000 per Sub-centres for medicines to 97757 Sub-centres, per annum. The assistance for medicines is also provided under various National Programmes and Reproductive & Child Health Programme to all the States. But, separate allocation for rural areas is not made.

Vaccination for Hepatitis-B

1470. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem "Hepatitis-B still off the vaccination list", appearing in the Statesman dated 23rd June, 2000;

(b) if so, the reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is proposed to include HBV to the routine